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TAGS: UNIDO, EAID, OCON

SUBJECT: UNIDO - POSITION PAPER FOR AGENDA ITEM 7(B)

SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 032943

1. DRAFT POSITION PAPER FOR UNIDO-II PROVISIONAL
AGENDA ITEM 7(B), LONG-RANGE STRATEGY FOR THE
ACTIVITIES OF UNIDO: REVIEW OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB), FOLLOWS.

2. PROBLEM: DEFINITION OF A LONG-RANGE STRATEGY
FOR UNIDO HAS PREOCCUPIED UNIDO'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL
LEGISLATIVE BODIES SINCE THE SUBJECT RECEIVED SPECIAL
ATTENTION AT THE JUNE 1971 SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF UNIDO. THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD FINALLY ACHIEVED A SUBSTANTIAL MEASURE OF
AGREEMENT ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF SUCH A
STRATEGY AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION IN 1974, BUT BASIC
DIFFERENCES REMAIN AMONG THE GROUP OF 77, GROUP B
AND GROUP D CONCERNING THE RELATIVE PRIORITY TO BE
ACCORDED OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY VERSUS STUDIES AND
RESEARCH, THE STRUCTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES REQUIRED
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BETTER TO IMPLEMENT THE SUBSTANTIVE

ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY, AND THE SOURCES AND AMOUNTS OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATE TO THE TASK. THE RESOLUTION OF THESE DIFFERENCES HAS, IN EFFECT, BEEN REMANDED TO UNIDO-II. APART FROM SEEKING TO CURB THE INSTITUTIONAL AND BUDGETARY INNOVATIONS VARIOUSLY ADVANCED BY THE LDC'S AND GROUP D, THE U.S. SEES CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM AS AN OCCASION TO CONFIRM THE SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY TO WHICH IT CONTRIBUTED GREATLY ANDONCE AGAIN TO ENCOURAGE UNIDO'S LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND SECRETARIAT TO DEFINE MORE SHARPLY THE RELATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES. THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE AS SECRETARIAT-DISTRIBUTED DOCUMENTATION ID/CONF. 3/4, LONG-RANGE STRATEGY FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF UNIDO: REVIEW OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A SHORT HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF THE FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF THE TOPIC) AND ID/B/C.3/29, MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED RELEVANT TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE STRATEGY FOR UNIDO (A RATHER UNSATISFACTORY DOCUMENT PREPARED FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF UNIDO'S PERMANET COMMITTEE ANALYZED IN THE ANNEXED CABLE--IO/CMD: APPEND VIENNA 9875--). THE SECRETARIAT HAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED ID/CONF.3/13/REV.1, IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF UNIDO OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE: THE COVER PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT INDICATES IT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEMS 6 AND 7, AND THUS MAY BE TAKEN UP IN CONNECTION WITH DISCUSSION OF UNIDO'S LONG-RANGE STRATEGY.

3. POSITION: (1) THE U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD COMMEND THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS AND THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE STRATEGY FOR THEIR VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS. (2) THE U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD RECALL THE EXTENSIVE CONSIDERATION GIVEN THIS TOPIC SINCE 1971 AND THE ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT REACHED ON THE SUBSTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS I THROUGH V AND ON THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. WHILE NOTING THAT DISAGREEMENT PERSISTS OVER CERTAIN INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL

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QUESTIONS, THE DELEGATION SHOULD OBSERVE THAT THESE DIFFERENCES ARE CLEARLY SET FORTH IN THE TEXT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S REPORT ANNEX II THERETO AND IN THE RECORD OF DISCUSSION AT IDB-VIII AND PC-V. THE DELEGATION SHOULD THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT THE CONFERENCE (A) ACCEPT WITH APPRECIATION THE REPORTS OF THE GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS AND THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE STRATEGY; (B) TAKE INTO

ACCOUNT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED CONCERNING THESE REPORTS AT IDB-VIII AND ALSO AT PC-V; (C) INSTRUCT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROCEED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN HIS AUTHORITY; AND (D) ADDRESS FURTHER THOSE UNRESOLVED INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS UNDER PROVISIONAL AGENDA ITEM 8, INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF UNIDO. (3) THE U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD TAKE THIS OCCASION TO REITERATE SELECTED ELEMENTS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO WHICH IT CONTINUES TO ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. THESE SHOULD INCLUDE: (A) THE CONSTANT REQUIREMENT FOR ASSESSMENT OF, AND ADHERENCE TO, PRIORITIES IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING UNIDO'S WORK PROGRAM; (B) ACCORDINGLY, THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION'S CENTRAL PROGRAM PLANNING MECHANISM SO THAT IT MAY PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK AND CONTROL FOR PROGRAM DESIGN; (C) THE IMPORTANCE OF ORIENTING UNIDO'S PROGRAM OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH SO THAT IT SUPPORTS AND REINFORCES THE UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING PROCESS, AS WELL AS IMPROVES UNIDO'S CAPABILITY FOR

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BROADLY ADVISING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND STRATEGY; (D) THE URGENCY OF THE SECRETARIAT IMPLEMENTING THE AHC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INSTITUTION OF ADVISORY

PANELS FOR UNIDO'S STUDY PROGRAM (AHC REPORT, PARA 29)
AND FOR INVESTMENT PROMOTION ACTIVITY (AHC REPORT, 52);
(E) THE UTILITY OF THE SECRETARAT'S PREPARATION OF
THE "CONCISE DESCRIPTIVE OUTLINE" CALLED FOR IN
PARAS 56-60 OF THE AHC REPORT TO ASSIST IN FULFILLMENT
OF UNIDO'S CENTRAL COORDINATING ROLE IN UN-SYSTEM
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY; AND (F) SPECIAL
AND CONTINUING ATTENTION TO RECRUITMENT OF QUALIFIED
SECRETARIAT AND PROJECT PERSONNEL.

4. DISCUSSION: PURSUANT TO ID/SCU/RES.1, A CONSENSUS
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE 1971 SPECIAL
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO, AND PARA 3 OF GA
RESOLUTION 2823(XXVI), THE SECRETARY GENERAL APPOINTED
AN 18-MEMBER GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS ON A LONG-RANGE
STRATEGY OF UNIDO. MEETING IN 1972 AND 1973, THE GROUP
AGREED ON SIX RECOMMENDATIONS (ID/B/133); AT ITS
SEVENTH SESSION, THE IDB CONSIDERED THE HIGH-LEVEL
EXPERTS' REPORT AND BY ITS RESOLUTION 38(VII) THE
IDB ESTABLISHED AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE
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STRATEGY FOR UNIDO (AHC). THE AHC WAS CHARGED WITH
IDENTIFYING WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING THE
HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND WITH ASSISTING
THE IDB IN THE FURTHER FORMULATION OF UNIDO'S LONG-
RANGE STRATEGY. THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT (ID/B/142) WAS
CONSIDERED AT ID/B-VIII, WHICH IN RESOLUTION 42(VIII)
ENDORSED THE AHC'S CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS,
INSTRUCTED UNIDO'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TAKE CERTAIN
ACTIONS WITH REFERENCE TO THE AHC'S REPORT, AND
DIRECTED THAT THE REPORT, ITS ANNEXES AND RELATED
DOCUMENTATION BE SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND TO THE SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO.
THE 29TH UNGA DEFERRED SUBSTANTIVE DECISION ON
THE REPORT; THUS FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THIS REPORT
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AWAITS THE FINDINGS OF UNIDO-II.
WHILE AHC AND IDB DELEGATIONS EVINCED SUBSTANTIAL
AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISIONS CONCERNED WITH RECOMMENDA-
TIONS I, II, III, AND IV, THE GROUP OF 77 EXPLICITLY
DIFFERRED WITH GROUPS B AND D ON UNIDO'S CENTRAL
COORDINATING ROLE (AHC REPORT, PARA 54) AND WITH
GROUP B ON RECOMMENDATION VI, ORGANIZATIONAL AND
FINANCIAL RQUISITES, (AHC REPORT, PARAS 66, 70 AND
ANNEX II). GROUP D ALSO DIFFERS, INTER ALIA, WITH
THE PREVAILING GROUP B VIEW IN THAT THE SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES WISH TO EXPAND UNIDO'S MANDATE IN THE
FIELDS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY; GROUP D WISHES ALSO TO PROVIDE
THAT UNDP SET ASIDE ANNUALLY A FIXED PERCENTAGE

(25 PERCENT) OF ITS RESOURCES FOR UNIDO'S TA ACTIVITY. MOREOVER, WHILE THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT RECOMMENDATIONS I AND III WOULD TOGETHER HAVE FIRST PRIORITY, PROGRAM CHOICES FORCED BY ACTUAL FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED A TENDENCY WITHIN THE GROUP OF 77 (AND THE SECRETARIAT) TO ACCORD EXCLUSIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY. THESE DIFFERENCES ARE FUNDAMENTAL, BUT WILL IN ANY EVENT HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED LARGE LY UNDER AGENDA ITEM 8; THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE TO THE CONFERENCE MAKES IT PREFERABLE THAT THEY NOT ALSO BE TREATED EXHAUSTIVELY UNDER ITEM 7(B).STIBRAVY
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